



BULLETIN

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15 FOR FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST

Hopeful artists, get out your brushes, oils and acrylics.

The 1997 Federal Duck Stamp Contest opened July 1, and this year's deadline is September 15 for entering the Nation's only federally-sponsored art contest.

Complete rules and regulations for entering the 1997 Duck Stamp Contest are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Duck Stamp Program, 1849 C Street NW, Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240, or by calling 1-888-534-0400, toll-free.

The rules are also available on the Duck Stamp Office's Internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/~r9dso>.

Eligible species for this year's Duck Stamp Contest are the Barrow's goldeneye, black scoter and mottled duck. The entry fee this year is \$100, and all entries must be postmarked by midnight on September 15.

The contest will be held November 5 and 6 in the auditorium of the Department of the Interior's Main Interior Building at 18th and C Streets, NW, in Washington, DC. The public is invited to view the entries on November 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as watch the contest judging. The winner will be announced on the afternoon of the 6th.

The winner of this year's Duck Stamp Contest will see his or her art become the 1998-99 Federal Duck Stamp, which goes on sale July 1, 1998.

Federal Duck Stamps, formally known as Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, must be purchased annually by waterfowl hunters age 16 and older. However they are also purchased by a growing number of stamp collectors and conservationists as a way to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

Duck Stamps are sold for \$15 at most U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, sporting goods stores, and K-Mart and Wal-Mart stores. They cost \$1 when they were first sold in 1934.

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Ninety-eight cents of every Duck Stamp dollar is used to acquire wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System, a unique national network of public lands and waters set aside for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat. Since 1934 when the Duck Stamp was created, stamp sales have raised more than \$500 million for the purchase of more than 4.5 million acres of habitat for the 509 national wildlife refuges nationwide.

The 1997-98 Federal Duck Stamp features a single Canada goose in a wetlands setting. The stamp's designer, Robert Hautman, is a veteran wildlife artist whose brothers Joe and Jim have both won the Duck Stamp Contest -- Jim in 1989 and 1994, and Joe in 1991 -- and who was a finalist in five previous Duck Stamp Contests before taking first place this year.

The Hautmans also achieved fame as the rivals of a budding waterfowl stamp artist in the Academy Award-winning movie "Fargo."

-FWS-

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